

Nevada Public Records Act

The Problem

Currently, high fees make public records inaccessible to many Nevada taxpayers. Government actors are not held accountable when they choose to violate the law and agencies are often contentious, responding to requests for public records with little or no cooperation.

High Fees



Some agencies demand payment of exorbitant production fees as a condition to access public records, which functionally denies many Nevadans a transparent and open government.

No penalty



The status quo doesn't penalize those who choose to violate the NPRA, leaving government employees free to violate the law with impunity.

Contention



Government agencies tend to be contentious when responding to public records requests. Agencies should work with members of the public to help them find the information they are looking for.

Public records laws are supposed to make government transparent and accountable to the people it serves.

Solutions

Fees must be strictly limited to the direct cost of duplication, and exclude staff time related to search, review and redaction.

Allow courts to impose monetary sanctions on the official responsible for the decision to unlawfully withhold or restrict access to public records.

Require agencies to “assist requester in finding information responsive to the purpose of the request.”

